

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A tracheostomy tube adapted to be disposed on the neck of a patient comprising:  
a cannula inserted into the throat of the patient,  
a neck plate having a center opening therein, the cannula being received in said center opening, the neck plate having two bands formed integrally thereon, the bands extending in opposite directions outwardly from the neck plate,  
each band having a respective end, the respective ends of the bands having means thereon for being rapidly releasably connected to one another such that the bands encircle the neck of the patient.
2. The tracheostomy tube of claim 1, wherein the neck plate and the bands are formed from a viscoelastic polymer which molds itself to the anatomy of the patient's neck.
3. The tracheostomy tube of claim 1, further comprising an adjustment means attached to at least one of the bands such that the at least one of the bands may be shortened or lengthened for the comfort of the patient.
4. A tracheostomy tube adapted to be disposed on the neck of a patient, comprising:  
a cannula inserted into the neck of the patient,  
a neck plate having a first end, an opposite second end, and a center opening, the cannula being received in the center opening,  
a first band and a second band, each band having a respective first end and a second end, the first end of the first band being connected to the first end of the neck piece, the first end of the second band being connected to the second end of the neck piece,

means for rapidly connecting and disconnecting the second end of the first band with the second end of the second band, the connected bands encircling the patient's neck, and

an adjustment means attached to at least one of the bands such that the at least one of the bands may be shortened or lengthened for the comfort of the patient.

5. The tracheostomy tube of claim 4, wherein the bands are formed from a viscoelastic polymer which molds itself to the anatomy of the patient's neck.

6. The tracheostomy tube of claim 5, wherein the neck plate is integral with the two bands forming a unitary member.

7. A tracheostomy tube adapted to be disposed on the neck of a patient comprising:  
a cannula inserted into the throat of the patient,  
a neck plate having a first end, an opposite second end and a center opening, the cannula being received in the center opening,  
a band between the first end of the neck plate and the second end of the neck plate, the band to encircle the neck of the patient, having an adjustable length which may be shortened or lengthened for the comfort of the patient, and

the band being formed from a viscoelastic polymer which molds itself to the anatomy of the patient's neck.

8. The tracheostomy tube of claim 7, wherein the neck plate is integral with the band forming a unitary member.

9. A tracheostomy tube adapted to be disposed on the neck of a patient comprising:  
a cannula inserted into the throat of the patient,

a neck plate having a center opening therein, the cannula being received in said center opening, the neck plate being formed from a viscoelastic polymer.

10. The tracheostomy tube of claim 9, further comprising the neck plate having two bands formed thereon, the bands being integral with the neck plate and extending in opposite directions outwardly from the neck plate, the bands encircling the neck of the patient, the bands being formed from a viscoelastic polymer.

11. The tracheostomy tube of claim 10, further comprising an adjustment means attached to at least one of the bands such that the at least one of the bands may be shortened or lengthened for the comfort of the patient.

12. A tracheostomy tube adapted to be disposed on the neck of a patient comprising:  
a cannula inserted into the throat of the patient,  
a neck plate having a center opening therein, the cannula being received in said center opening, the neck plate having two bands formed integrally thereon, the bands extending in opposite directions outwardly from the neck plate, the neck plate and the bands being formed from a viscoelastic polymer which molds itself to the anatomy of the patient's neck,

each band having a respective end, the respective ends of the bands having means thereon for being rapidly releasably connected to one another such that the bands encircle the neck of the patient, and

an adjustment means attached to at least one of the bands such that the at least one of the bands may be shortened or lengthened for the comfort of the patient.

13. A method of attaching a tracheostomy tube on the neck of a patient comprising the steps of:

providing a tracheostomy tube having a cannula, a neck piece in which the cannula is received, a first band and a second band attached to the neck piece at opposite ends of the neck piece, a means for releasably connecting the two bands and at least one of the bands having an adjustment means,

inserting the cannula in an incision in the throat of the patient with the neck piece disposed against the throat of the patient,

disposing the bands around the neck of the patient and connecting the bands to one another with the connecting means,

adjusting the at least one band to comfortably fit the bands and the neck piece to the patient with minimal movement of the cannula within the incision.

14. In a tracheostomy tube device, the improvement comprising a quick connect / quick disconnect strap provided with adjustability for easily fitting the device to a patient, and the strap being made from a relatively soft material for patient comfort.

15. The improvement of claim 14, wherein the strap is made from a viscoelastic polymer.

16. The improvement of claim 15, further including a neck plate for the device, the neck plate being made from a viscoelastic polymer and being formed integrally with the strap.

17. The improvement of claim 16, wherein the strap has two portions, each of which is formed integrally with a respective end of the neck plate.